



*The May Duke.*

XXVIII.

THE MAY DUKE CHERRY.

This Cherry is, in the estimation of the market gardeners in the vicinity of *London*, better adapted to produce an early supply of fruit for *Covent Garden Market* than any other; and although the trees exhibit evident symptoms of debility, particularly in cold or damp situations, it still possesses strong claims to commendation. In the neighbourhood of *Brentford*, and *Isleworth*, it is extensively cultivated, and under skilful management is abundantly productive, and its fruit excellent. It is also, perhaps, the best variety at present in use for forcing, as the fine early crops of its fruit, which are annually produced in the Royal Gardens of *Kew* and *Hampton Court* sufficiently prove.

The leaves are moderately large, broad, terminating in a narrow point, sharply serrated, of a very dark green on their upper surface, paler beneath; petiole from 1 to 2 inches long, thick, tinged with red. The fruit is usually produced in clusters of ten or twelve; large, roundish, flattened at both extremities, sometimes broad heart-shaped; of a very deep brownish red colour, approaching nearly to black when ripened in a favourable exposure. Flesh soft, juicy, and sweet, enlivened with a pleasant acid. Stone small, readily quitting

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